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REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 30 Oct. 1953

SUBJECT Purges of the Student Body at the Kliment
Okhridski State University of Sofia

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25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. There was an extensive purge of Sofia University students in 1949. [redacted] well over 1,000 students were expelled in June of that year. [redacted] estimate the total enrollment in the University at that time at from 15,000 to 20,000. The main purge, in June, did not affect any of the students in the Philology Department [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] The Philology Department was very small at that time and had only about 100 students. The medical school had the largest number of expellees, certainly more than 500. [redacted] the 25X1
buildings of the medical school at the time of the purge and seeing long lists of expelled students posted on the bulletin boards. A large percentage of the medical students who were expelled had formerly been officers in the Bulgarian Army, a fact which, [redacted] 25X1
was in itself sufficient to cause expulsion. 25X1
2. [redacted] the reason for the purge was to keep out of the University all young people who seemed unlikely to cooperate with and 25X1
work for the Communists in the future. Thus, those who were dissatisfied with the regime and expressed their dissatisfaction, or those whose family background seemed suspicious from a Communist point of view, were moved out of the University. Perhaps this was partly to make room for "more reliable" students.
3. Some of the students expelled from Sofia University in June 1949 later received permission to re-enter the University and to continue their studies. Although there appeared to have been "quite a few" such cases, [redacted] the number was insignificant in comparison with the total number of expellees. 25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

Page Denied

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

-2-

4. A smaller number of persons was expelled in the Fall of 1949, including several students from the Philology Department. [redacted] one such case [redacted]

25X1

5. Some time later, [redacted] a young man named TSANKOV who said he had been expelled from the technical school of the University in June 1949, apparently because of his name, although he was in no way related to the family of Aleksandr TSANKOV.

6. [redacted] there were no open signs of current unrest among students at Sofia University for the simple reason that the students were afraid to speak openly of their discontent and dissatisfaction. [redacted] the vast majority of students were not satisfied with the University or with their education and believe that the chief reasons for this dissatisfaction were:

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- a. The method of selecting students for entrance into the University;
- b. Compulsory political courses;
- c. Compulsory military training; and
- d. In the case of philology students, the requirement that one major must be Russian philology.

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